

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

JANUARY 13, 1914

The annual meeting of the Club was held on January 13, 1914, at the American Museum of Natural History at 8:15 P.M. President Burgess presided. Fourteen persons were present. The minutes of December 9 were read and approved.

Mrs. L. N. Keeler, Scarsdale, N. Y. and F. L. Pickett, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, were nominated for membership. The resignations of the following members were read and accepted: Mrs. Pamela Eakins, Mrs. George Such, Mrs. Henry Dinkelspiel, Mrs. Alice Popper, Miss Mary Brackett, Wm. Holmes, and Albert Calman. Mrs. L. M. Keeler and F. L. Pickett were then elected to membership in the Club.

The annual reports of the officers of the Club were next in order. The secretary reported that fifteen meetings had been held during the year with an average attendance of 15 persons. Eleven new members have been elected during the year. Nine resignations have been accepted and five deaths have occurred. The report was accepted and ordered placed on file.

The treasurer's report was presented and upon motion was referred to the auditing committee.

Mr. Norman Taylor, editor of *TORREYA*, presented a special report relating to that journal. This report was accepted.

Mr. Sereno Stetson, chairman of the field committee, then gave his report and upon motion of Dr. Britton this was accepted and a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Stetson for the work which he did in connection with these field meetings. Remarks were made by Miss Jean Broadhurst, Dr. Mansfield, Professor Harper and others relating to future field meetings.

Dr. Britton, chairman of the local flora committee, announced that the work on the local flora being prepared by Mr. Norman Taylor would be published as a Memoir of the New York Botanical Garden and goes to press some time in February. Professor Harper remarked upon the advisability of continuing the local flora work with a special reference to a study of the Cryptogamic flora.

Election of officers for 1914 resulted as follows: *President*, Robert Almer Harper; *Vice-Presidents*, John Hendley Barnhart, Herbert Maule Richards; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Bernard Ogilvie Dodge; *Editor*, Alexander William Evans; *Associate Editors*, Jean Broadhurst, Ernest Dunbar Clark, J. Arthur Harris, Marshall Avery Howe, Herbert Maule Richards, Arlow Burdette Stout, and Norman Taylor.

Dr. William Mansfield was elected delegate to the council of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Meeting adjourned.

MICHAEL LEVINE,  
*Secretary pro tem.*

#### JANUARY 28, 1914

The meeting of January 28 was held in the lecture room of the New York Botanical Garden at 3:30 P.M. Vice-president Barnhart presided. Twenty-five persons were present. The minutes of January 13 were read and approved.

Miss Laura Bragg, Charleston, South Carolina, and Mr. Frederick V. Rand, Columbia University, New York City were nominated for membership. The secretary then read an application presented by Mr. Norman Taylor for a grant of two hundred dollars from the Esther Herman fund of the New York Academy of Sciences, to aid him in completing a survey of the Long Island flora. This application was unanimously approved.

Miss Laura Bragg and Frederick V. Rand were then elected to membership.

The announced scientific program consisted of an illustrated lecture "The Coniferous Forests of Eastern North America," by Dr. Roland M. Harper. The following abstract was furnished by the speaker:

In eastern North America about 30 species of conifers make up at least three quarters of the existing forests. Most of the houses in the United States and Canada are built of their wood, most of our paper comes from the same source, and in some states at least, most of the fuel. Most of the conifers grow in pure stands of greater or less extent, so that there are about as many types of coniferous forest as there are species of conifers.

All but a few of the rarer or less important species were discussed from the standpoint of geographical distribution and relations to soil, water, climate, fire, etc. Fire as an environmental factor has hitherto received scant attention, partly because it is commonly regarded as a mere accident, and partly because it is not easy to experiment with. But the different species of conifers differ widely in their relations to fire, and it seems that for almost every type of coniferous forest there is a normal or optimum frequency of fire, varying from perhaps once in two or three years to once or twice in a century. The paper was illustrated by 47 lantern slides.

Meeting adjourned.

B. O. DODGE,  
*Secretary*

#### NEWS ITEMS

William Ruggles Gerard died suddenly in New York City, February 26, 1914. He was born in Newburgh, N. Y., March 29, 1841, and in boyhood entered the employ of a druggist in Poughkeepsie; he remained in the same business until finally he became proprietor of a drug store in that city. He began the study of fungi at a time when few American botanists had devoted attention to that group of plants, his first descriptions of new species appearing in the *Bulletin* of the Torrey Botanical Club for October, 1873, before the publication of the earliest mycological papers of Burrill, Ellis, Farlow, or Morgan. In the following year he was one of the founders of the Poughkeepsie Society of Natural Science, in whose Proceedings a number of his botanical papers were published. In 1877 he removed to New York City, where he was an active member of the Torrey Botanical Club for some years. Before the death of William H. Leggett, the founder and editor of the *Bulletin*, Mr. Gerard was made assistant editor, and he followed him as editor, filling that office from April, 1882, to December, 1885. In later years he was interested in the derivation of plant names, especially those of